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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING THE MOST LIKELY ANSWER TO A NATURAL LANGUAGE QUESTION**

the specification of which (check one)

 is attached hereto. was filed on November 15, 2000 as United States Application Number: 09/713,075.

or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application, having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. '119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. '120 of any United States Application(s), or '365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States, or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. '112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR '1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number).

Manny W. Schecter (Reg. 31,722), Lauren C. Bruzzone (Reg. 35,082), Christopher A. Hughes (Reg. 26,914), John E. Hoci (Reg. 26,279), Joseph C. Redmond, Jr. (Reg. 18,753), Stanley B. Green (Reg. 24,351), Richard M. Ludwin (Reg. 33,010), Marc A. Erlich (Reg. 39,966), Douglas W. Cameron (Reg. 31,596), Louis P. Herzberg (Reg. 41,500), Marian Underweiser (Reg. 46,134), Stephen C. Kaufman (Reg. 29,551), Daniel P. Morris (Reg. 32,053), Louis J. Percello (Reg. 33,206), Robert M. Trepp (Reg. 25,933), Gail H. Zarick (Reg. 43,303), Robert P. Tassinari, Jr. (Reg. 36,030), Paul J. Oitterstedt (Reg. 37,411), Derek S. Jennings (Reg. 41,473) and Timothy M. Farrell (Reg. 37,321).

Send Correspondence to: Louis J. Percello, Intellectual Property Law Dept.IBM Corporation, P.O. Box 216, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number) Louis J. PercelloEric W. Brown

Full name of sole or first inventor

Eric W. Brown

Inventor's Signature

5/23/01

Date

13 Indian Hill Road, New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812-2544  
ResidenceUSA

Citizenship

Same as above.

Post Office Address

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATIONAnni R. CodenFull name of second joint-inventor, if anyAnni R. Coden

Inventor's signature

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Date

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Residence

USA

Citizenship

Same as above.

Post Office Address

John Martin PragerFull name of third joint-inventor, if anyJohn Martin Prager

Inventor's signature

May 23, 2001

Date

3 Lochsley Lane, Pomona, New York 10970

Residence

USA

Citizenship

Same as above.

Post Office Address

Dragomir Radkov RadevFull name of fourth joint-inventor, if anyDragomir R. Radev

Inventor's Signature

May 23, 2001

Date

2907 Philadelphia Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Residence

Bulgaria

Citizenship

Same as above.

Post Office Address

Valerie SammFull name of fifth joint inventor, if anyValerie Samm

Inventor's Signature

May 23, 2001

Date

3133 Broadway, Apt. 7, New York, New York 10027

Residence

USA

Citizenship

Same as above.

Post Office Address

Full name of sixth joint-inventor, if any

Inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Same as above.

Post Office Address

# Assignment

Whereas, we

Inventor and City	(1) Eric W. Brown County of Fairfield	of New Fairfield and State of Connecticut
	(2) Anni R. Coden County of Bronx	of Bronx and State of New York
	(3) John Martin Prager County of Rockland	of Pomona and State of New York
	(4) Dragomir Radkov Radev County of Washtenaw	of Ann Arbor and State of Michigan
	(5) Valerie Samn County of New York	of New York and State of New York

have invented certain improvements in

**TITLE** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FINDING THE MOST LIKELY ANSWER TO A NATURAL LANGUAGE QUESTION

and executed, respectively, a United States patent application therefor on

**DATES THAT** (1) 2001, and (2) 2001, and (3) 2001, and  
**INVENTORS** (4) 2001 and (5) 2001.  
**SIGNED THE**  
**DECLARATION**

Whereas, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION, a corporation of New York, having a place of business at Armonk, New York 10504, (hereinafter called IBM) desires to acquire the entire right, title and interest in the said application and invention, and to any United States and foreign patents to be obtained therefor;

Now therefore, for a valuable consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, we, the above named, hereby sell, assign, and transfer to IBM, its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in the said application and invention therein disclosed for the United States and foreign countries, and all rights of priority resulting from the filing of said United States application, and we request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any Letters Patent granted upon the inventions set forth in said application to IBM, its successors and assigns; and we hereby agree that IBM may apply for foreign Letters Patent on said invention and we will execute all papers necessary in connection with the United States and foreign applications when called upon to do so by IBM.

Signed

CITY (1) at  
DATE 5/23 on 2001,

  
( Eric W. Brown ) INVENTOR  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

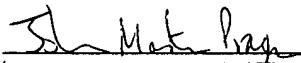
Signed

CITY and (2) at  
DATE 5/24 on 2001,

  
( Anni R. Coden ) INVENTOR  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

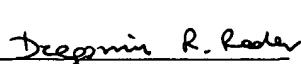
Signed

CITY and (3) at  
DATE 5/23 on 2001,

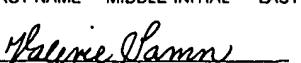
  
( John Martin Prager ) INVENTOR  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

Signed

CITY and (4) at  
DATE 5/23 on 2001,

  
( Dragomir Radkov Radev ) INVENTOR  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

CITY and (5) at  
DATE 5/23 on 2001,

  
( Valerie Samn ) INVENTOR  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

**RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET  
PATENTS ONLY**

To The Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks:  
Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):  Eric William Brown Anni R. Coden John Martin Prager Dragomir Radkov Radev Valerie Samn	2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):  Name: International Business Machines Corporation Address: New Orchard Road Armonk, NY 10504
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? <u>Yes</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u>	Additional name(s) & addresses attached? <u>Yes</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u>
3. Nature of conveyance:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment  Execution Date(s): <u>May 23, 2001 and May 24, 2001</u>	4. Patent Application number(s)  <u>09/713,075</u>  Execution Date(s): <u>May 23, 2001 and May 24, 2001</u>
5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:  Name: Louis J. Percello Address: IBM Corporation Intellectual Property Law Dept. P.O. Box 218 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598	6. Total number of applications involved: 1  7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$40.00  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge to Deposit Account No.: <u>09-0468</u>

**DO NOT USE THIS SPACE**

8. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of original document.

Louis J. Percello (Reg. No. 83,206)

Name of Person Signing

*over*  
Signature

6/6/01  
Date

Total Number of pages including cover sheet,  
attachments, and document: 2

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Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Washington, DC 20231

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